

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16836 271434Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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P R 271341Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 302

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA DENOUNCES SECRETARY AND SCHLESINGER FOR CHINA
STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA'S ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY ASSERTS THAT MOSCOW DOES NOT THREATEN PEKING AND CHARGES THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO SCORE POINTS IN PEKING AND IN THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN. PRAVDA ALSO DENOUNCES FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGER FOR RECENT SINO-SOVIET REMARKS. END SUMMARY

2. PRAVDA (OCT. 27) CARRIES AN UNSIGNED AND THEREFORE AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE CALLED "IT'S TRANSPARENT GENTLEMEN" ANSWERING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS AT HARVARD ON US
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CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE THREAT TO CHINA. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS

FBIS TEXT.

2. MAIN POINTS OF ARTICLE ARE:

--STATEMENT WOULD HAVE CAUSED NO "SPECIAL ATTENTION" BUT FOR ITS
AUTHOR;
--THE SOURCE OF THE ALLEGED THREAT, THOUGH UNNAMED, IS OBVIOUSLY
THE USSR;
--THE POINT IS TO MAKE AN "IMPRESSION IN PEKING" AND TO
ENCOURAGE POOR SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS AND TENSION;
-- "THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT AND DOES NOT THREATEN ANYONE",
INCLUDING CHINA;
--BREZHNEV'S SPEECH TO THE PARTY PLENUM STATED THE SOVIET
POSITION CLEARLY AND SPECIFICALLY;
-- THE SECRETARY'S MOTIVES CONCERN THE U.S. DOMESTIC
POLITICAL SITUATION, WHERE AN "ELECTION SAUCE" NOW COVERS
EVERYTHING IN THE WASHINGTON "KITCHEN".

3. PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK (OCT. 24) TREATED THE
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT MORE BRIEFLY, CHARGING THAT
ALLEGATIONS OF A "HYPOTHETICAL THREAT" TO CHINA WERE
"RIDICULOUS FROM BEGINNING TO END," AS THE SECRETARY
HIMSELF PROBABLY KNOWS.

4. ON A SIMILAR TACK PRAVDA'S YURIY ZHUKOV (OCT.23)
IN A "REPLY" ARTICLE TAKES FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGER
TO TASK FOR HIS REMARKS ON AN ALLEGED SOVIET THREAT TO
WESTERN EUROPE AND CHINA. ON THE LATTER, ZHUKOV NOTES
THAT SCHLESINGER ON HIS RECENT PRC TRIP, VISITED AREAS
"ABOUT 30 MILES" FROM THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER AND AFTER
RETURNING HOME SPOKE OF CHINA'S "THREAT FROM THE NORTH."
ZHUKOV STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT "THE USSR HAS NO
ECONOMIC, TERRITORIAL OR ANY OTHER CLAIMS TOWARD THE
PRC," AS HAS BEEN STATED "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE
ARE "PROVOCATIVE AND INFLAMMATORY."

5. COMMENT: THESE COMMENTS BETRAY SHARP SOVIET CONCERN
THAT U.S. PUBLIC FIGURES MAY BE ENCOURAGEING CONTINUED
CHINESE ANXIETY ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS WHEN MOSCOW IS
SEEKING TO PRESENT A RESTRAINED PUBLIC SMILE TOWARD THE
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16836 271434Z

NEW PEKING LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, PRAVDA'S REFERENCE TO
U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS AS A MOTIVE FOR THE SECRETARY'S
REMARKS SOFTENS PRAVDA'S STING AND IMPLIES THAT HIS
STATEMENT WAS MADE FOR SHORT-TERM TACTICAL REASONS. MATLOCK

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